

In The Claims:

11. (Amended) A nucleic acid sequence encoding a modified glucocorticoid receptor protein capable of binding a non-natural ligand, comprising a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises: a glucocorticoid receptor region, wherein said region comprises a DNA binding domain and one or more transregulatory domains, wherein each said transregulatory domain is capable of transactivating or transrepressing gene expression; and a mutated progesterone receptor ligand binding region, wherein said mutated progesterone receptor ligand binding region is capable of binding a non-natural ligand [of 1, 6, 7, 8 or 9].

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12. (Amended) A vector containing a nucleic acid sequence encoding a modified glucocorticoid receptor protein capable of binding a non-natural ligand, comprising a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises: a glucocorticoid receptor region, wherein said region comprises a DNA binding domain and one or more transregulatory domains, wherein each said transregulatory domain is capable of transactivating or transrepressing gene expression; and a mutated progesterone receptor ligand binding region, wherein said mutated progesterone receptor ligand binding region is capable of binding a non-natural ligand [of 1, 6, 7, 8 or 9], wherein said vector is capable of expressing said modified glucocorticoid receptor protein.

13. (Amended) An isolated host cell transfected with a vector of claim 12.

14. (Amended) An isolated host cell transformed with a vector of claim 12.

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31. (Amended) An isolated host cell transformed with a vector of claim 30.

41. (New) A nucleic acid sequence encoding a modified glucocorticoid receptor protein comprising a ligand binding domain without ligand binding activity, a DNA binding domain and transregulatory domains, wherein said transregulatory domains are capable of constitutively transactivating or transrepressing gene expression without said ligand binding activity.

42. (New) A nucleic acid sequence encoding a modified glucocorticoid receptor protein capable of binding a non-natural ligand, comprising: a glucocorticoid receptor region, wherein said region comprises a DNA binding domain and a mutated transregulatory domain, wherein said transregulatory domain is capable of transactivating but not transrepressing gene expression; and a mutated ligand binding domain.

43. (New) A nucleic acid sequence encoding a modified glucocorticoid receptor protein capable of binding a non-natural ligand, comprising: a glucocorticoid receptor region, wherein said region comprises a mutated DNA binding domain and transregulatory domains, wherein said transregulatory domains are capable of transrepressing but not transactivating gene expression; and a mutated ligand binding domain.

44. (New) A nucleic acid sequence encoding a modified glucocorticoid receptor protein capable of binding a non-natural ligand, wherein said protein comprises a DNA binding domain, transregulatory domains and a mutated ligand binding domain, wherein said mutated ligand binding domain is mutated by deletion of about 2-5 carboxyl terminal amino acids from the ligand binding domain and capable of binding a non-natural ligand.